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REX BLACKLEY  
*under an*  
INDIAN BEAVER MOON

11/9/92: Visited Rex Blackley in his mother, Zella's old home. We sat across the kitchen table from each other. We talked of several things, but he mainly told me of his trapping days on the Provo River from the White Banks to Francis, Utah.

He mainly had a Utah License to trap Beaver. He especially was proud of one large beaver he caught which had eluded him for some time. He set his trap and for twice, his return visits found the trap sprung with only hair in the teeth of the trap.

He always wired a rock onto the trap chain so when the beaver was trapped he naturally dove into the deepest part of the beaver pond and the rock held him down to allow him to drown.

Cobble stones in Provo River are always smooth and round, so this trapper always took a hammer and chisel to notch the rock around it, so the wire would not slip off.

This hair in the trap bothered Rex so that he would set the trap down lower so it would catch the front leg rather than just the belly hair.

He went on down his trapping line and eventually got back to this special trap. This time when he pulled the chain and trap up he had a very large beaver, caught by one of his back legs, but both front legs were missing; thus explaining why he only caught his belly fur and could not be caught by his front feet.

*Trapping from the White Cliffs on the Provo River to Francis, Utah*

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Great care must be taken when pelting out a beaver. One had to have the whetstone close at hand to keep the skinning knife very sharp. Especially when skinning around the back side of front shoulder girdle. One must not allow any fat to stay on the pelt or else the hair will come off in that spot later.

Rex used to nail out his pelts to dry on the inside of an old large wooden barn to east and north of his Utah Power and Light home, the fifth one in a row to the east of the old Murdock Electric Power Plant in Hailstone.

Rex threw out his chest and said that beaver measured 40" across the width and long.

R RAYMOND GREEN

11/9/92